



# Howard County Council

George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

## COUNCILMEMBERS

Mary Kay Sigaty, Chairperson  
District 4  
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson  
District 1  
Calvin Ball  
District 2  
Jennifer Terrasa  
District 3  
Greg Fox  
District 5

Minutes (approved)  
Monthly Meeting  
Howard County Council  
July 13, 2015  
C. Vernon Gray Room  
8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Mary Kay Sigaty, Chair; Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; and Jen Terrasa (Jon Weinstein, Vice Chair, participated by phone.)

Staff Present: Jessica Feldmark, Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

BGE Update: Mike Fowler, External Affairs Manager for BGE, attended to provide the Council with an update on BGE and indicated that he would like to begin updating the Council twice a year. Mr. Fowler gave a presentation on the growth of BGE, its efforts to improve electric reliability and gas safety, investments in infrastructure, and environmental initiatives. Council Members asked questions about gas leaks and community use of BGE owned rights-of-way.

Affordable Housing in Downtown Columbia: Paul Casey, Tom Carbo, and Greg Fitchitt attended to provide an update on their ongoing dialogue since the previous monthly meeting. They reported that they have been working very actively toward finding an agreement and have made significant progress on a number of issues and are still working on addressing remaining unresolved questions. They expect to be able to come back to the Council in September with agreement on a set of recommendations. Carl Delorenzo commented on the Administration's participation in the negotiations to date. Council members raised concerns about negotiations proceeding based on assumptions which may not be acceptable to the Council. Members requested that DPZ prepare an update to the fiscal impact analysis of the Downtown Columbia Plan to incorporate the affordable housing recommendations and encouraged the parties to consider alternatives if certain assumptions in their recommendations may not be accepted by the Council. The Council agreed to hold a special work session immediately following its legislative session on September 8 to continue the conversation on affordable housing in Downtown Columbia.

Council Member Reports: Ms. Sigaty asked members to consider moving the Council's regular start time for legislative sessions and public hearings from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For the Patuxent River Commission, Ms. Sigaty reported that the Commission was a presenting sponsor

of a very successful scientific conference on the Patuxent River. For MACo, Ms. Terrasa reminded members of the upcoming summer conference and referenced the written materials she had distributed. Ms. Sigaty added that she and Mel Franklin went to the MACo Board of Directors retreat to brief them on the Large County Coalition. Mr. Fox did not have a NACo report but will circulate an update from the annual conference when he receives it.

Staff Reports: Ms. Feldmark referenced her written report and asked members to follow up with their Special Assistants on outstanding scheduling matters. Mr. Glendenning referenced his written report and discussed improvements to the website for fraud and abuse reporting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

### Statement of Closed Meeting

The County Council held a closed meeting at 9:27 p.m. on July 6, 2015, in the Council's large conference room.

Immediately following the Council's regular legislative session, Chairperson Sigaty moved that, in accordance with Section 3—305(b) (7), General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the meeting be closed for the purpose of consulting with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Vice Chairperson Weinstein seconded the motion. Members Mary Kay Sigaty, Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Jennifer Terrasa, and Jon Weinstein voted in favor.

Members Present: Mary Kay Sigaty; Jon Weinstein; Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; Jennifer Terrasa

Others Present: Jessica Feldmark, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, Paul Johnson, and Jim Vannoy, Office of Law

The Council discussed legal questions regarding New Town zoning with its attorneys and requested additional analysis from the Office of Law.

The closed meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.